

America's

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THREE EVENTS

It is easy to understand that people can grow weary of endless talk, and columns of print, about the spy plane incident and its effect on that ill-fated summit meeting. But I would like to add a comment on the manner in which the plane incident was treated, as compared to another big story - and the possible effect on a third event.

I have been watching the passing show of public events for a long time. But I do not think I have ever seen anything like the one-sided, and

contrasting, manner in which we were given the news about the overthrow of the Rhee government in Korea, and the capture of an American pilot in Soviet Russia. What happened in South Korea, with the help of the American State Department, was the triumph of mob rule. Even the State Department is now said to have second thoughts about the wisdom of its course in assisting in the overthrow of a staunch anti-communist leader in South Korea. But the whole episode was treated

- with a few notable exceptions - with general praise and approval by our 'liberal'-dominated news media.

Contrast this with the wringing of hands and harsh criticism of the government on the spy plane incident. You would think some heinous crime had been committed because we were countering, for the protection of America, the world's greatest espionage organization.

Meantime, in San Francisco last week the House Un-American Activities Committee was trying to hold a necessary and orderly hearing on communist infiltration in that area. The Committee was besieged by a howling, shouting, rioting mob of students. They finally had to be dispersed with fire hoses. The police

said there was no doubt that they had been stirred up by pro-communist elements. In the midst of the riot, Harry Bridges, the left-wing labor boss, arrived. He thought it was terrible - not the riot, but the way the police treated these poor, innocent kids!

Oddly enough, as I reported two weeks ago, the drive to abolish this fine committee is being led by a Californian, Congressman James Roosevelt. His father, FDR, once told a chairman of this same committee that communism was no menace! And again oddly enough, on the same day students rioted against an inquiry into communist subversion, the Dean of the Harvard Law School delivered an attack on congressional investigating committees.

FACTS AND PROPAGANDA

While we are on this subject of the coloring of the news, I would like to call attention again to a phenomenon which seems to be growing rather than lessening. It has to do with the amount of phony facts and figures we get from behind the Iron Curtain. I am not referring to the propaganda which is dished out by Soviet leaders,

and their stooges in the captive countries. I mean so-called 'news' - which actually amounts to propaganda - from American and other Western reporters. I do not mean that we are not getting good, straight reporting (as nearly as this is possible) from the Russian slave lands. We are, but too often it is buried under the other kind. And it

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is important to separate the facts from the propaganda, because it is impossible to make intelligent decisions without the truth.

I am not implying that this practice of passing off propaganda as facts is deliberate. In certain cases it is, but in most instances it is not. I suspect that sometimes it stems from reporters attempting to track down facts in a communist country by the same methods they would use here in America. For instance, if the government in America institutes a certain policy, and a newspaper or magazine wants to know how people feel about it, what does a reporter do? He goes around and asks peo-

ple what they think of the policy. Usually, he gets frank and open answers from which certain conclusions can be drawn.

But in a communist country, this kind of reporting is not only impractical - it can actually result in the opposite of the truth. I mentioned last week that *Newsweek*, a national news magazine, had fallen for some phony statistics on the rise in steel production in East Germany as compared with Free West Germany. The whole tone of the article which contained these figures left a strange impression. The article recognized, of course, the communization of East Germany - and the terror and brutal methods which go along with forced slavery to a Red regime. Nevertheless, the whole tone of the article was to the effect that the East Germans were becoming more satisfied with their Red bosses, and with the way of life which has been forced on them.

How did the reporter reach this conclusion? For one thing, he discovered people were not much interested in discussing politics. For another, as he says, he rang a dozen doorbells at random.

Now really! Can you imagine people in a communist country discussing politics with a stranger - or even an acquaintance or friend? Can you imagine an East German opening his door, finding a stranger there, and giving open and truthful answers to questions designed to indi-

cate how good or bad is his condition under communism? How would an East German know, for example, that his questioner was not a member of the Secret Police? This is something he would have every right to suspect - and he would answer the gullible reporter accordingly.

EVEN REDS LAUGHED

The East German Red regime has been carrying on in recent months a brutal collectivization of farms. The result has been a new wave of refugees into West Germany - more than 15,000 in one month. All reliable reports agree that these are not the starved and ragged Germans who fled from the Red 'heaven' in the early years. They are fairly prosperous, well-dressed people who leave behind them valuable property and possessions.

Yet this *Newsweek* reporter was so carried away by his doorbell-ringing that he actually said that if free elections were held in East Germany today, the Reds might conceivably get 40 percent of the vote! That's certainly a shaky conclusion to draw from ringing doorbells and talking to people in a communist country. In fact, another

news magazine, *U.S. News & World Report*, which is noted for its reliability, said even the Red leaders in East Germany laughed at this report. Their maximum hope would be 20 percent of the vote - and one of them said the only way they might get more is by running against each other.

As has often been said, it is a mistake to under-estimate your enemy. But it can be an equally big mistake to over-estimate him. And this is what we have been doing as a result of some sloppy reporting - to say nothing of falling for Red boasts and bombast.

This latest exodus from East Germany is only one of a mounting number of troubles which the Red leaders face. They are confronted with many others in the captive nations

as well as inside Russia itself. There are even indications that Khrushchev is faced with a power struggle inside the ruling clique in the Kremlin. All these troubles are undoubtedly the chief reason why the Red bosses are so full of screaming threats for propaganda purposes - and at the same time so anxious to trick the free countries

into deals, on Red terms.

How much better it would be if we simply ignored Khrushchev - left him to face his mounting troubles, minus the propaganda-fodder we give him by treating him as a civilized leader. And how about cutting off the stream of American taxpayers' dollars to the Red stooges who rule his captive countries? - John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 5/22/60

Book Review WANNA SWAP?

LET'S TRY BARTER by Charles Morrow Wilson, 184 pages, Devin-Adair, N. Y., \$3.95.

It is probable that when two primordial boys came upon one another, it wasn't long before the Neanderthal equivalent of 'Wanna swap?' was uttered. There is grim humor in the fact that Mr. Wilson's lively, amusing plea for a return to old-fashioned swappin' (barter to you: the exchange of goods and/or services) should be published in this, the sixth decade of the 20th Century A.D. We have so perfected the science of money and credit that we turn to a time-honored practice to escape their concomitant

evils of taxes and inflation.

The author, a successful journalist, hails from Arkansas and now lives in Vermont - two states whose natives could run rings around international monetary experts in trading without benefit of money. Mr. Wilson has done a thorough job of investigating various forms of barter and their amazing growth all over America, plus some pre-war and post-war European experiences (not so hot, because governments had a hand in them). Barter, or swapping, is essentially a personal thing which oftener than not brings about camaraderie and friendship. But there is also

multiple, or chain, barter which can be equally rewarding. Mr. Wilson's book is full of wonderful stories - as, for instance, of the young dentist who wanted a certain kind of house, but lacked the \$15,000 it would cost. He arranged a whole series of barterers, the ultimate result of which was that he got his house, and architects, contractors, building tradesmen got the holes in their teeth filled.

Then there was the young widow who raised, fed, clothed, and educated three children by bartering music lessons

for everything under the sun. And then there was - but Mr. Wilson's stories are too good to spoil by summarizing them. Read them for yourself. You will find them not only enjoyable, but profitable. Everybody has some thing or talent he or she can swap. Charles Wilson tells you how, where and when to do it. And no less important is the manner in which barter can bring at least partial relief (legally too) from those two voracious consumers of our substance - taxes and inflation. *- Rosalie Gordon*

SCARED TO TEST?

"In February of 1948, Miss Vivien Kellems, a manufacturer of Westport, Conn., made the startling announcement that she would defy the federal government by refusing to deduct and pay the Withholding Tax from the pay envelopes of her employees. In making this announcement Miss Kellems stated that the Withholding Tax was 'illegal, immoral and unconstitutional.' She asked the government to prosecute her and thus bring a test case before the courts. She held the firm conviction that the Withholding Tax commandeered every employer into involuntary servitude, assumed that every American worker was unfit to administer his own affairs, that it sowed the seeds of dissension between employer and employee and concealed the hold that the politicians and the bureaucrats had acquired on every pay envelope.

"Well, the federal government refused this redoubtable lady's challenge. It knew full well that no fair United States court would ever rule that any American should be forced to act as an unpaid tax collector. In May, it sent

four Internal Revenue agents to her factory to demand payment of the taxes she had refused to withhold. These agents knew that these taxes had been promptly paid by all of her employees, but they claimed the full amount as a 100 percent penalty for her failure to deduct. Upon Miss Kellem's refusal to pay this penalty, the agents, *carrying no court order*, went to her bank and intimidated its officers into surrendering out of her account the full amount of \$1,685.40.

"Miss Kellems continued NOT to deduct from her employees, and in August 1949, the agents returned demanding \$6,100 as a penalty, again despite the fact that every dollar of income tax had been paid promptly directly to the federal government by her employees. Again Miss Kellems refused to pay the penalty, whereupon they seized the \$6,100 from her bank account. Miss Kellems demanded a refund which was refused. She filed a claim with the Federal District Court in New Haven in January, 1950, and in February, 1951, finally secured a trial. The Court ordered a refund of the \$1,685.40 and \$6,100 which had been seized illegally from her bank account. But the matter of the constitutionality of the Withholding Tax was not tested. It still in 1960 remains untested."

- George Peck in the syndicated service *THE AMERICAN WAY*

NO USEFUL PURPOSE

"No useful purpose is served by the United States being a member (of the United Nations)...I foresee in the future

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a time when the balance of power will be against the United States...Nothing good will happen in the United Nations. I've seen them meet time after time on very grave questions that affect the well being of the whole world and never have they solved any of them except by a slap on the wrist, or some weak action...

"And I wouldn't want people from foreign countries who know nothing or care nothing about our well being, making decisions that will affect the future life of this country."

- General Mark W. Clark, former UN Commander in Korea

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